

Corporation for National and Community Service

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AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

Award Information

Recipient:

Diakon Child Family Community Ministries
1018 N Union St
Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057 - 2158

Program Contact:

Tammy McCrae, mccraet@diakon.org

Award Amount:

\$105,644 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)

Target Geography:

Berks, Pike and Wayne Counties - Pennsylvania

Program Summary:

This recipient, Diakon Community Services, a program of Diakon Child, Family and Community Ministries, will sponsor a new RSVP program to recruit 261 RSVP volunteers who will serve three rural northeast Pennsylvania counties of Berks, Pike, and Wayne to deliver the following services: APPRISE Medicare counseling; Meals on Wheels and grocery delivery for the homebound; companionship; transportation to medical and critical social service appointments; and facilitation of evidence-based health education programs (i.e., Chronic Disease Self-Management/Diabetes Self-Management). At the end of the three-year grant: 930 homebound/individuals with disabilities will have received transportation, food or other services that support independent living; 679 homebound/individuals with disabilities will report having increased social ties/support; five individuals will have received support, services, education and/or referrals to alleviate long-term hunger; five will have reported increased household food security; and 3,800 clients will have received information on health insurance, health care access, and health benefits programs; and, 340 clients will have participated in health education programs.